

Glossary of Castle Terms

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by Graham Millar

- **Abacus** - Flat portion on top of a capital.
- **Aisle** - Space between arcade and outer wall.
- **Allure** - Walkway along the top of a wall.
- **Ambulatory** - Aisle round an apse.
- **Apse** - Rounded and usually of a chancel or chapel.
- **Arcade** - Row of arches, free-standing and supported on piers or columns; a blind arcade is a "dummy".
- **Arch** - Can be round-headed, pointed, two-centered, or drop; ogee - pointed with double curved sides, upper arcs lower concave; lancet - pointed formed on an acute-angle triangle; depressed - flattened or elliptical; corbelled - triangular, peaked, each stone set a little further in until they meet, with a large capstone.
- **Arrow Loop** - A narrow vertical slit cut into a wall through which arrows could be fired from inside.
- **Ashlar** - Squared blocks of smooth stone neatly trimmed to shape.
- **Aumbry** - Recess to hold sacred vessels; typically in a chapel.
- **Bailey** - The ward or courtyard inside the castle walls, includes exercise area, parade ground, emergency corral
- **Baluster** - A small column.
- **Balustrade** - A railing, as along a path or stairway.
- **Barbican** - The gateway or outworks defending the drawbridge.
- **Bar hole** - Horizontal hole for timber bar used as a door-bolt.
- **Barrel vault** - Cylindrical roof.
- **Bartizan** - An overhanging battlemented corner turret, corbelled out; sometimes as grandiose as an overhanging gallery; common in Scotland and France.